



HARMONIZED SYSTEM  
REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE

-  
28<sup>th</sup> Session  
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NR0456E1  
(+ Annex)

O. Eng.

Brussels, 18 July 2003.

POSSIBLE AMENDMENT OF THE DEFINITION OF NEWSPRINT

(PROPOSAL BY THE INDIAN ADMINISTRATION)

(Item III.A.14 on Agenda)

Reference documents :

NC0710E1 (HSC/31)  
NC0730E2, Annex IJ/5 (HSC/31 – Report)

NR0444E1 (RSC/28)

I. BACKGROUND

1. After the preparation of Doc. NR0444E1, the Secretariat received, on 2 July 2003, a note from the **Indian** Customs Administration providing further information on their proposal to amend the definition of “newsprint” in Note 4 to Chapter 48. The note is reproduced the Annex to this document.

II. SECRETARIAT COMMENTS

2. Given the recent arrival of the submission, the Secretariat has refrained from commenting on it.

III. CONCLUSION

3. The Sub-Committee is invited to take the information provided by the **Indian** Customs Administration, as set out in the Annex to this document, into account in its examination of this question.

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NOTE FROM THE INDIAN CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION

1. "It has been represented by the Indian Newspaper Society (INS) that the definition of newsprint, as given in Note 4 to Chapter 48, does not take into account newsprint obtained from de-inked pulp. According to INS, the said definition does not refer to de-inking process and further, the wood fibre content in newsprint manufactured from recovered paper is generally lower (55% to 65%). The ICC observer in the 31<sup>st</sup> HSC meeting held in May, 2003, proposed to amend the definition to include newsprint made from pulp obtained by de-inking process without having minimum percentage content of mechanical wood pulp.
2. The majority of the recycle paper grades used in the manufacture of newsprint consist of old newspaper (ONP) and old magazines and coated flyers (OMG or PAMS). ONP has a high percentage of mechanical fibre, brown wood or thermo mechanical pulp (TMP). Chemical pulp, such as kraft and sulphite pulp, can be as much as 30% by weight. ONP is relatively low in additives, with ash ranging from 2 to 12% by weight. Ink makes up 1 to 2% wt. of the ONP.
3. Magazine is a highly variable raw material. The fibre component of the magazine can range from 100% kraft pulp (chemical) to 100% ground wood (mechanical). An individual magazine may have several grades of paper included in its production, thus resulting in a highly variable furnish component. In addition to variability in the fibre component, the additives are also highly variable. Fillers such as clay, alum, and precipitated calcium carbonate (PCC) are added in paper making process to improve the sheet characteristics. In magazine stock this inorganic portion of the furnish can range from 10 % in the uncoated sheets to as high as 50% in a sheet that is coated on both sides. Ink can range from 1 to 7% in magazine grades of waste paper.
4. The optimum raw material furnish ratio varies from 70:30 to 50:50 for ONP/OMG. Other pulp component used for these papers grades generally include TMP.
5. Broadly, the process steps involved are pulping, screening, cleaning, de-inking (Ink removal stage), dispersion and bleaching to obtain a clean stock with required brightness and optimum yield. During the various processing stages the ink, ash and other undesirable components are removed from the system. The optimum yield varies between 80 - 85%. A typical flow sheet for production of de-inked pulp for newsprint production, prepared by Central Pulps & Paper Research Institute, Dehradun (CPPRI) is enclosed.
6. The cellulosic fibre obtained from de-inked pulp (mechanical and chemical) and the virgin cellulosic fibre obtained from mechanical/chemical pulps are same in nature. There is no microscopic examination available in the technical world to distinguish virgin fibre, recycled fibre, waste paper fibre or de-inked fibre from one another. Microscopic procedures can only identify the type of pulping process the fibres have undergone, but not whether the previous source was virgin, recycled, waste or de-inked fibre.
7. It has been ascertained from technical sources that during recycling the pulp does not change its character. The total fibre content and the wood fibre content in recycled newsprint remains the same. The variation in wood fibre content in recycled newsprint, about which the INS is concerned, is apparently caused due to variation in input raw materials. As per ASTM 1998 Vol. 15.09 (D-6149-97) also the minimum wood fibre content in virgin newsprint as well as recycled newsprint should not be less than 65%. Further, the

wood fibres in case of newsprint manufactured from de-inked pulp are ultimately derived by a mechanical/chemi mechanical process. Therefore, the Board has reviewed the matter and it is felt that the existing definition covers newsprint manufactured from de-inked pulp also. However, there may be a few cases where doubts may arise. Therefore, it may be made clear in the HS text that newsprint falling under heading 48.01 may be obtained from either virgin pulp or recycled pulp.

8. Therefore, it is proposed that an explanation may be added either in Note 4 to Chapter 48 or in the Explanatory Note below heading 48.01 to the effect that newsprint manufactured from old and used paper (ONP, OMG, corrugated cartons, waste paper, etc.) is also covered under heading 48.01 provided it meets the requirement of Note 4 to Chapter 48.

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Process Flow sheet For Production of De-inked Pulp from ONP/OMG Mixture for Newsprint  
Manufacture

Pulping System	
Course cleaner	
MC screening	
Floatation	
W Cleaner	LOOP - I
LC Screening	
Disc Filter	
HC Press	
Dispersion	
Oxidative Bleach	LOOP -II
Flotation II	
Disk Filter	
Reductive Bleach	
HW Cleaner	
LC Screening	P.M. LOOP
Paper machine	

Product            Newsprint and improved grades, approx. 40-90 g/m<sup>2</sup>  
 Furnish            News magazine  
 Yield                Approx. 83 %  
 Effluent            Approx. 8 L/Kg  
 Ash                  Feed Approx. 22 finished paper, approx. 13 %  
 Brightness        Finished paper, approx. 63-66 % ISO".